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The Foundation *of the* Diocese of Raleigh

Frequently Asked Questions

- ***What is The Foundation of the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh? What is its mission?***

The Foundation is a 501(C) 3 organization with the primary mission to grow the existing endowment funds that are under management and create other endowments and long-term gift vehicles to support the future growth needs of the Catholic community in eastern North Carolina. The Foundation is independent of the Diocese of Raleigh, and all fund management and long-term fundraising strategies benefit the ministries of the Diocese of Raleigh.

- ***How is The Foundation different from other community foundations?***

The Foundation is distinguished by faith-based and socially responsible operations purposely aligned with the Catholic Church. The Foundation's Catholic mission is the most important factor in a donor's decision to manage his or her charitable plans through The Foundation which subscribes to United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) guidelines on socially responsible investing.

- ***What is an Endowment Fund?***

An Endowment Fund is a permanent pool of monies intended to exist as long as the charitable purpose of the fund exists, presumably forever since many charitable causes will exist in perpetuity such as the need for Catholic Church communities, Catholic education, service to the homeless or hungry, etc. The endowment can be named in honor of a loved one or family legacy. To accomplish this, the fund is intended to grow in assets with only a portion of the interest income to be withdrawn each year for a charitable purpose. The goal is to establish a balance within the fund that can grow forever while also funding the mission of the endowment on an annual basis.

- ***What is Donor Advised Fund?***

A Donor Advised Fund is a fund established by an individual or family to support one or more Diocesan ministries over multiple years. The fund normally does not take the form of a perpetual endowment and exists as long as the donor or the donor's family wishes it to continue. The Donor Advised Fund offers significant benefits over traditional family foundations, including advantages in tax filing and liabilities, reduced administrative costs, the capability to give anonymously, etc.

For endowments or other donor-created funds, the philanthropic impact by a donor/investor can be measured and continued beyond his or her lifetime.

- ***What is Donor Designated (Non-Advised) Fund?***

Similar to a Donor Advised Fund, a Donor Designated (Non-Advised) Fund enables the donor to deposit a pool of funds to The Foundation of the Diocese of Raleigh to benefit a specified number of Diocese of Raleigh ministries. The Fund may be established for a period of years, or in perpetuity, as long as the Fund is replenished. Often a Donor Designated (Non-Advised) Fund is treated by the donor as a charitable checking account since the distribution of gifts are restricted to a named Diocese of Raleigh ministry identified at the execution of the Fund. Unlike a Donor Advised Fund, Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) may be used to fund a Donor Designated Fund.

For endowments or other donor-created funds, the philanthropic impact by a donor/investor can be measured and continued beyond his or her lifetime.

- ***What is the benefit for donors?***

The Foundation functions as a professional philanthropy management service for its donor/investors, providing excellent customer service and customized giving solutions within a regulated and transparent business environment.

The foundation relieves donors of investment and regulatory reporting burdens while providing them with comprehensive, up-to-date reporting on both the grants and donations made in their names.

Donations also realize immediate tax benefits for donor/investors to The Foundation.

- ***How and where are funds invested?***

The Foundation invests the funds with a professional investment advisory group to facilitate necessary asset growth for beneficiary organizations. The Foundation maintains a balanced asset allocation strategy. Donor/investors may also ask The Foundation to consider investment options they may select for their Donor Designated Funds or Advised Funds. In all cases, The Foundation is committed to being transparent when it comes to fund management and maintaining a socially responsible investment policy as determined by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops. The Foundation strictly adheres to the Investment Policy created by the Board of Directors which was modeled after the investment guidelines of the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh.

- ***Who do the funds help?***

Grants from The Foundation are made in strict adherence to the Legal Declaration that created the Funds which includes support of numerous ministries of the Diocese of Raleigh. Because donors to The Foundation influence how and where their funds are given, grantees can include a wide array of charitable causes benefitting parishioners and others throughout the diocese.

- ***How can I make a contribution to a Fund managed by The Foundation?***

Your donation/investment may be in the form of an outright cash gift or donation through your Donor Advised Fund or Charitable Giving Account. You may find it beneficial to contribute appreciated property such as stock, or use your options of an IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) or Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Finally, you may consider naming a new or existing Fund as a beneficiary in your longer-term gift planning such as a Charitable Gift Annuity or Charitable Remainder Trust. Consult your financial advisor to determine the most cost effective and tax efficient method for your situation.

- ***What is the difference between a Restricted Gift and an Unrestricted Gift?***

The Foundation provides flexibility to donor/investors who wish to support their favorite charitable cause. The donor is welcome to restrict or earmark their gift to a specific cause or named-fund. Otherwise, the donor may decide to provide an unrestricted gift to The Foundation to be used for the greatest area of need as determined by The Foundation Board of Directors.

- ***Can I include The Foundation or a specific Fund in my estate plan?***

Yes, you can include a contribution to The Foundation or a named-Fund(s) in your estate plan. We encourage you to notify The Foundation of your intention, and to clarify your desire with respect to which fund(s) you wish to support. The Foundation office can assist with proper documentation to make sure your wishes are carried out correctly.

- ***Who do I contact at The Foundation?***

Contact the Foundation Office at 919-568-1065 or Office@FoundationDOR.org and The Foundation Executive Director, Maureen O’Keeffe Lindgren, or Executive Assistant, Alicia Hastings, can assist you with your questions or to facilitate your investment.